

## **A World with a View**

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I want to live in a fair world in which each individual is provided with his or her basic yet essential needs of security, dignity, freedom, and health. This world would allow individuals, regardless of race, religion, sex, or history, equal opportunities to succeed. No one would be held back due to his or her circumstances. People around the world would become neighbours rather than enemies, exchanging ideas and lending a helping hand. Rather than viewing others as wrong or backward, people would respect and empathize with each other.

Though there will always be conflict, the ways in which the world deals with its issues would be based on compromise and peaceful resolution. Countries would still exercise their sovereignty but their decisions would take into account the impact on the greater global community. Ideas would be treated with no prejudices and fresh, innovative ideas would be carefully examined, not carelessly tossed aside. When a problem presents itself, society would diagnose the root cause, rather than merely treat the superficial blemish. As a whole, the world would move forward, rather than relapse into more vicious cycles of poverty, disease, and violence.

The meandering road leading us to such a world is long. To make the journey would require us all to put aside our prejudices to build bridges, placing “we” before “me”.

The key is empowerment, teaching the world about global citizenship and emphasizing that anyone can make an impact. It starts with youth. In order to spread awareness, programs should be developed through school systems around the world to target youth, demonstrating the relevancies of global issues to their lives and showing that their actions, however minute, can add up to create powerful effects, just like the proverbial butterfly that flaps its wings on one continent and causes great winds on another. These programs would encourage young people to open their minds and hearts to learn to respect different cultures, views, and lifestyles, an essential ingredient to an unbiased view of the world.

With the proliferation of technology, the world has shrunk considerably. However, even so, individuals still need to make sure to see beyond their own backyards to gain insight into the people behind the words and numbers. This involves stepping outside our comfort zones to learn, whether it is helping immigrants adjust, traveling to new destinations, or simply reading works by foreign authors. The mosaic of life is rich and wonderful if only one takes the moment to appreciate it.

Great change always starts small. Positive motivations and actions are contagious. The more individuals become involved, the more businesses, organizations, governments, and societies will respond. When the world begins to see things from many different angles, the view can be quite spectacular.